

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested. Claims 1-6 remain in the application. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to remove the informality noted by the Examiner on page 2 of the above-identified Office action in that the term "control assembly" has been amended to read "control system" to be in conformance with claim 1. No new matter is believed to have been added.

In item 3 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,628,941 to Knoblach, et al. (hereinafter referred to as Knoblach). Applicants note that Knoblach has an effective filing date of June 29, 1999, three days after the filing date of June 26, 1999 of German application No. 199 29 343.0 from which priority is claimed for this application under 35 U.S.C. § 119.

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §§ 119, 120 and 363, applicant is entitled to the priority date of the German application. See MPEP H 201.13 and 1895. Therefore, the Knoblach reference does not constitute prior art and can be overcome by perfecting the claim for priority, i.e. by filing a certified translation of the German priority document, which is submitted simultaneously herewith. A claim for priority was already made on June 5, 2002 in parent

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application No. 10/027,102 and the corresponding foreign priority document was submitted at that time.

The rejection of claims 1-4 has therefore been overcome.

In item 8 on page 4 of the Office action, the Examiner rejects claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,628,941 to Knoblach, et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,158,537 to Yasuhiro Nonobe.

For the reasons mentioned above, Knoblach does not constitute prior art and the rejection of claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) has thus also been overcome.

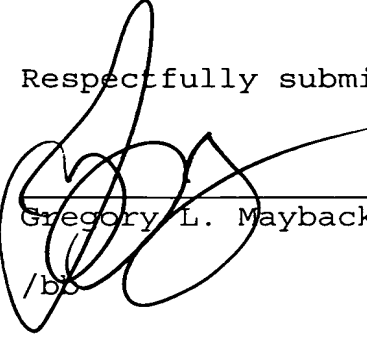
In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request that a *Notice of Allowance* issue for claims 1-6.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16

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and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg,
P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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/bb

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